

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member
Mike Sullivan



900 Bagby, First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

17629 El Camino Real
Houston, TX 77058

PHONE:
832.393.3008

FAX:
832.393.3279

E-MAIL:
DistrictE@CityofHouston.net

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Residents of District E,

One of the rituals of the new year is to hold our CIP meetings. With a new mayor coming in, the meetings were delayed until late February. I hosted two CIP meetings in my council district on February 23rd in Kingwood and on February 25th in the South Belt/Clear Lake area. I want to thank Creekwood Middle school and Dobie High School for hosting our meetings. Turnout was great, especially considering the inclement weather both nights. The public was satisfied with the projects that were completed this year, and they supported the projects proposed for the coming year.

The first round of Town Hall Meetings for my council district will begin soon. The dates, times and locations are listed in this newsletter. I encourage constituents to attend and tell us how the city is doing, what can be done better and whether or not they are satisfied with the services provided by my council office and me. Representatives from most city departments are present at the meetings to answer questions and to respond to suggestions from the audience. I take advantage of these meetings to improve on city services and to gain insight on what we can do better for you.

On the financial front, the economic picture is little changed, but there are some indications that conditions are improving. Collections for traffic tickets were slightly up, parking meter revenues turned upward and total municipal court revenues were up for the second month in a row. On top of all of this, cable franchise fees and telephone franchise fees were up due to higher than budgeted fees received from COMCAST and AT&T. We are certainly not out of the woods yet, and it will take a robust economy for us to regain the financial stability that is needed to run the city, provide services and pay for debt that is already on the books.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

Entergy Rate Increase Hearing

On March 23, an Entergy rate increase hearing will be held at Creekwood Middle School immediately following Council Member Sullivan's town hall meeting. The hearing will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Community members will be able give their input about a proposed increase in Texas Entergy, Inc. rates for Kingwood residents.

Last month, Council Member Sullivan and his colleagues voted in favor of suspending the effective date for yet another rate increase request by Entergy Texas, Inc. The proposed \$200 million increase would result in a 23.2% rate increase to the monthly bill for residential customers. This intended increase is of great concern for Council Member Sullivan as ETI currently serves approximately 1,372 customers the Kingwood area.

Swearing In Ceremony for Dave Martin

On February 4, 2010, David Martin was sworn in as the Director, Position 3 of the Houston Sports Authority at Union Station. David is a resident of District E and is a member of the Humble ISD School Board. Martin was appointed in December and will serve as Director until August 31, 2010.

Council Member Sullivan recommended Mr. Martin for this important position. Mayor White agreed and nominated him. City Council unanimously approved Mr. Martin on December 16 to serve as one of the city's six appointees.

The Harris County-Houston Sport Authority's purpose is to plan, acquire, establish, develop, construct and/or renovate sports and community venue projects within Harris County.



Dave Martin stands as he is being sworn in. Sitting, is Tom Sprague with the Houston Sports Authority.

KARWC Membership Coffee



Council Member Sullivan, Dan Huberty and Senator Dan Patrick

The Kingwood Area Republican Women's Club (KARWC) hosted their membership coffee program last month at Homewood Suites featuring Senator Dan Patrick as the guest speaker. Attendees were also given an inside look at the Kingwood Area Republican Women's accomplishments that help to further the vision of their organization. Council Member Sullivan attended the membership coffee as many of his constituents are members.

KARWC engages in a number of civic projects. They participate in Red Ribbon Week, give scholarships to Girls State and donate dictionaries to our school libraries and students to promote literacy.

Humble ISD Pancake Fundraiser

On February 5, Council Member Sullivan attended the "Pancakes for Kids" event hosted by the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce held at the Humble Civic Center. The event kicked off the local rodeo and included a pancake breakfast, live country music performed by Humble High School students, a silent auction and raffle and a display of student's rodeo-themed art. All proceeds will be awarded as grants for teachers or scholarships for graduating seniors.

Bridge Fest 5K Family Run

The Kingwood Medical Center sponsored this year's Annual Bridge Fest 5K Family Run and Walk Race in Kingwood. The event began 18 years ago as a celebration of the opening of the Lake Houston Parkway Bridge, which links Kingwood, Atascocita and Humble. Council Member Sullivan was honored to give the prayer before each of the races. Proceeds raised benefit the Lake Houston Family YMCA Partners Campaign.

Kingwood Kiwanis participated for the second year. The club hosted a golf ball drop as their fundraiser this year. A helicopter was hired for the event and thousands of golf balls were dropped from the air. The ball closest to the hole won a prize. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefits both Kiwanis and the YMCA.



Council Member Sullivan and YMCA Marketing Director, Carol Sutton

Leadership North Houston Meeting



Council Member Sullivan was invited and honored to speak to the Leadership North Houston Class of 2011 at the new Lonestar College System University Park Campus on February 25. He and Senator Dan Patrick led a discussion focused on government. LNH is a community based program committed to educating and enhancing the involvement of existing and emerging leaders in Houston.

Council Member Sullivan was a member of LNH Class of 2001. He experienced first hand the benefits from the LNH year-long program. He is also a member of the LNH Alumni Association.

District E CIP Meeting

Council Member Sullivan hosted District E's annual Capital Improvement Project meetings last month. A meeting was held for his constituents in the north sector of his district on February 23, 2010 at Creekside Middle School. Kingwood residents heard of upcoming projects for their area and were afforded an opportunity to voice their concerns and address their respective City of Houston officials.

Council Member Sullivan thanks all of the city representatives and Kingwood community members who attended the meeting.



Council Member Sullivan welcomes city department representatives to the meeting.

Northpark and Woodland Hills Construction



Intersection improvements at Northpark Drive and Woodland Hills Drive began this past month after completion of intersection improvements at Kingwood Drive and Green Oak. These improvements include adding a right turn lane westbound on Northpark Drive, adding a second left turning bay northbound on Woodland Hills Drive and extending the existing left turn lanes northbound on Woodland Hills Drive and eastbound on Northpark Drive. Construction is estimated to last two to three months. Council Member Sullivan has worked with the Mobile Response Team to make sure traffic continues to flow during construction.

Project Updates

- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2010.
- An additional \$289,000 has been earmarked for the Kingwood HPD substations for overtime programs and Mobility Response Teams.
- Construction of the new library is complete. Keys were turned over to Harris County who will be in charge of its operations. A grand opening ceremony will take place April 19, 2010.

South Belt Ellington Chamber Banquet



The South Belt Ellington Chamber of Commerce hosted their 26th annual installation banquet February 25, 2010 at the Golfcrest Country Club. Outgoing board members and incoming 2010 officers were recognized during the program. Council Member Sullivan, who has many Chamber members as constituents, attended the event in support of the Chamber.

Council Member Sullivan welcomes the incoming 2010 Board of Directors and Officers. Marie Flickinger, owner of the South Belt Ellington Leader, will be chair for the third year in a row.

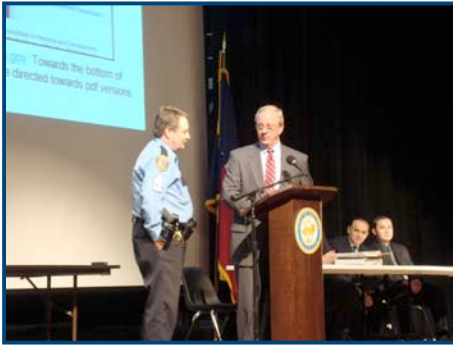
Council Member Sullivan and South Belt Ellington Chamber President, Marie Flickinger

Meeting with Logan's Landing Residents

Residents of the Logan's Landing neighborhood have been working with Council Member Sullivan's office the last several months regarding a sewer line issue. Council Member Sullivan arranged a meeting with Public Works and hosted three of the homeowner's association board members at his office to discuss possible solutions. Council Member Sullivan would like to thank Jun Chang with the Public Works and Engineering Department for lending his expertise and time to this case.



District E CIP Meeting



Sgt. Gillespie and Council Member Sullivan

Council Member Sullivan hosted his Capital Improvement Project meeting for South Belt and Clear Lake residents on February 25, 2010. City representatives were in attendance to give District E project updates. Audience members also had the opportunity to voice their suggestions, concerns and questions during the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Council Member Sullivan recognized Sergeant Greg Gillespie for his dedication and commitment to the Houston Police Department. Sgt. Gillespie retires this month after 34 years as a Houston police officer. Council Member Sullivan and the District E team thank Sgt. Gillespie for his selfless years serving the Houston community.

Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park has been approved and will be installed in early 2010.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is open.
- Monroe Road improvements are complete, and open all the way to Beltway 8.
- This spring, METRO will be adding 150 new parking spaces at the South Point Park and Ride Lot offering a total of 766 spaces to patrons.

Congressman Pete Olson Hosts NASA Meeting

During a meeting at the NASA Hilton on February 17, 2010, Congressman Pete Olson addressed the Clear Lake community leaders and members about President Obama's recent proposed budget that eliminates NASA's human space flight program. In a collaborative effort, Congressman Olson vows to defeat President Obama's bill while rallying support from Congress. He stressed that this is a bi-partisan issue and spoke about several grass roots efforts that have been taken thus far. He said more action needs to be taken and urged the public to contact their Congressional representatives.

Boy Scouts Ceremony

Boy Scouts of America Pack 595 invited Council Member Sullivan to their annual Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet held on February 20. The Cub Scout Pack holds a banquet every year to celebrate the birthday of Robert-Baden Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts. This year's event marked the 100 year anniversary of the organization and was celebrated with dinner and entertainment. Council Member Sullivan presented Pack 595 with a certificate recognizing them for their contribution to the club and wishing them future success in the years to come.



Council Member Sullivan with scouts from Pack 595

Floyd Boze Proclamation Presentation



Floyd Boze and Council Member Sullivan

Council Member Sullivan presented Floyd D. Boze with an official City of Houston Proclamation for his unparalleled dedication to the Space Center Rotary Club and for his active involvement in the community. Mr. Boze has been a Rotary member for 60 years and has an endowment foundation established in his name known as the Floyd Boze Fellowship. Council Member Sullivan was honored to acknowledge Mr. Boze at one of Space Center Rotary's weekly meetings in February.

Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Epicurean Evening

On February 4, 2010, the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce hosted their "Epicurean Evening – A Taste of Space" event at Space Center Houston. The annual event promotes local business and restaurant establishment and attracts hundreds of community members. Participants had the opportunity to sample delicious food from area restaurants while enjoying live entertainment and a silent auction. Council Member Sullivan was invited to be a guest judge this year and would like to thank the Chamber for including him in this event.



An exhibitor at the Epicurean Event and Council Member Sullivan

Project Updates

- Railroad crossings along Highway 3 at Clear Lake City Blvd., Pineloch and El Dorado have been repaired.
- Concrete repairs have been completed on all major Clear Lake area thoroughfares.
- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.
- Council Member Sullivan received the final draft of the Clear Lake traffic operations study draft, and it is currently under review.

CIP Applications

Community members and Super Neighborhood Councils now have the opportunity to submit CIP requests online. Please visit www.houstontx.gov where you can find links to this year's CIP Plan and an application for your community's requests. Also, beginning this year, residents can call 3-1-1 to submit their ideas and to check the status of ongoing or upcoming projects.

If you should have any questions or problems with this process, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office.

NASA Press Conference



Dr. Bill Staples, Bob Mitchell, Mayor Annise Parker, Rep. John Davis, Eva de-Cardenas, Jim Sweeney and Council Member Sullivan (center)

On February 24, 2010, Mayor Parker addressed the importance of NASA and the Johnson Space Center during her first Mayor's Report at council session. She specifically stated the significance of the human space flight program and the detrimental effects dismantling the program would have to the Houston economy and America's pride.

Following council session, Council Member Sullivan hosted a press conference at City Hall addressing these same concerns. Texas State Representative John Davis; Bob Mitchell, President of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership; Dr. William Staples, President of the University of Houston Clear Lake and Jim Sweeney, former Chairman of the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce attended and spoke in support of saving the NASA program. They stressed that human space exploration is fundamental in securing America's leadership in national security, economic vitality and STEM education.

Jeff Moseley, President of the Greater Houston Partnership, Eva de-Cardenas from Clear Creek Independent School District and Representatives of Congressman Pete Olson and State Senator Mike Jackson were also in attendance to show their support.

Ethics and Council Governance Committee Meeting

On February 15, Council Member Sullivan chaired the Ethics and Council Governance Committee Meeting held in City Council Chambers. The Committee reviewed Chapter 18, Article V of the Code of Ordinances, which applies rules and regulations to lobbyists. An overview of Council procedures and expectations was also reviewed.

Council Member Sullivan and Mayor Parker are both committed to full transparency in city government. Look for significant changes in the city's ordinances that govern lobbying activity at City Hall.

The Ethics and Council Governance Committee is one of two committees Council Member Sullivan chairs.



Council Member Sullivan leads the committee meeting

Discovery Green Conservancy Gala

On February 27, 2010, Council Member Sullivan attended Gala on the Green presented by HEB and chaired by Carolyn and Matt Khourie and Bobbie and John Nau. The biennial event attracts hundreds of Houstonians to support the operations of Discovery Green Park and the dynamic free programming offered by the Discovery Green Conservancy. Discovery Green Park is a public-private partnership and is operated by the Discovery Green Conservancy.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Anne Duncan, a director of the Conservancy, for hosting him and his wife at the gala.

Houston Rotary Club Proclamation Presentation



Council Member Sullivan had the privilege of honoring the Rotary Club of Houston on February 23 for their 105 years of exemplary service to the community. He presented an official City of Houston proclamation to the club during one of their monthly luncheons at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Former First Lady Barbara Bush was also recognized during the luncheon and was awarded the 2009 Houston Rotary Distinguished Citizen of the Year award.

Council Member Sullivan, District Governor Ed Charlesworth and Houston Rotary Club President Michelle Bohreer

Compostable Bag Program Interview

On February 01, 2010, Amy Davis, a KPRC Local 2 investigative reporter, met with Council Member Sullivan to discuss the City of Houston ordinance regarding yard waste garbage bags. The ordinance, which goes into effect **April 5, 2010**, mandates the disposal of yard trimmings are required to be put in a biodegradable, environmentally friendly trash bag. Council Member Sullivan, who was the only Council Member to vote against the ordinance, discussed its affect on his constituents and why he feels it is unfair to his district.

To view the story online, please visit <http://www.click2houston.com>.



Reporter Amy Davis interviews Council Member Mike Sullivan

Council Member Sullivan's 2010 Town Hall Meeting Dates

Town Hall

Kingwood	3/23/2010	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Creekwood Middle School
Clear Lake	4/27/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	UHCL – Garden Room
South Belt	5/11/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	San Jac College – Marie Flickinger Bldg

Hurricane Preparedness Town Hall

South	6/8/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	UHCL – Garden Room
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Flooding and Drainage Town Hall

South	7/14/2010	6:30 – 8:00 pm	San Jac College – Marie Flickinger Bldg
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City Hall Annex
900 Bagby
First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

Monica Aizpurua, Chief of Staff
Karina Moreno, District Outreach Coordinator
Autumn Jodzio, North Sector Manager
Lauren Doak, South Sector Manager

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